

SMSgt (Ret.) Rob Rosenberger

Twitter @rsnbrgr

This PDF / ZIP / folder / _____ contains first-generation scans and/or photographs of original UNCLASSIFIED historical papers in the public domain stored in the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. SMSgt (Ret.) Rob Rosenberger accessioned the enclosed papers into his personal collection and he donates this effort to the PUBLIC DOMAIN.

EO 12958: N/A My accession: 17 JUN 24 Initials: RR

Title: BIOGRAPHY OF LT. GEN. HUBERT R. HARMON

Date(s): Nov 1955

Call: 239.2936 Volume: N/A

IRIS: 481873

☒ ALL ☐ Selected Papers ☒ Except

☐ copyrighted news stories; congressional bios; tabbed & oversized pages

PHOTOGRAPH NEGATIVE(S)

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
PRESS BRANCH

Director
Aerospace Studies Inst
AFM: Archives Branch
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

RETURN TO
21 JUL 1988

1239.293

LIEUTENANT GENERAL HUBERT R. HARMON, USAF (RETIRED)

Hubert Reilly Harmon was born in Chester, Pennsylvania, April 3, 1892. He attended Polytechnic Preparatory School at Brooklyn, New York, for two years, was graduated from the U.S. Military Academy June 12, 1915, and commissioned a second lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Corps.

Assigned at Fort Monroe, Virginia, that December General Harmon was transferred to Fort Andrews, Massachusetts, and in July 1916 he was transferred to the Infantry. Entering the Air Corps Flying School at San Diego, California, that December, he was graduated in June 1917, and went to Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Three months later he was assigned at Kelly Field, Texas, where he organized and served as commandant of the Ground Officer's Training School, later serving as aeronautical officer for the Southern Department and then engineer officer of Kelly Field. In March 1918 he was appointed executive officer at Taliaferro Field, Texas, and the following month he was placed in charge of Barron Field, Texas.

Going to Europe in September 1918, General Harmon took advanced training in pursuit aviation at Issoudun, France, and the following January he was named chief of staff of the Air Service Command, Third Army, at Coblenz, Germany. That September he went to London, England, as aviation officer for the U.S. Liquidation Mission, and July 1, 1920, he was transferred to the Air Service.

That October General Harmon was assistant executive in the office of the Chief of Air Service at Washington, D.C., also serving as an aide at the White House. Transferred to Bolling Field, D.C., in July 1924, the following month he entered the Air Service Engineering School at McCook Field, Ohio, and was graduated in August 1925. Returning to the office of the Chief of Air Service, in March 1926 he was appointed chief of the Information Division, and again served as an aide at the White House.

From March 1927 to May 1929 General Harmon was military attache for aviation in London, England, and then was assigned as an instructor at the U.S. Military Academy. Entering the Air Corps Tactical School at Maxwell Field, Alabama, in August 1932, he was graduated the following June, and two years later he was graduated from the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Named executive and operations officer of the First Wing, General Headquarters Air Force, at March Field, California, in August 1936, he assumed command of the 19th Bomb Group. Entering the Army War College in July 1937, he was graduated the following June.

Joining the War Department General Staff, Washington, D.C., General Harmon was chief of the Operations Branch, Personnel Division. Assuming command of the Advanced Flying School, Kelly Field, Texas, in September 1940, a year later he was named commanding general of the Gulf Coast Air Forces Training Center at Randolph Field, Texas.

UNCLASSIFIED

MORE

5-4241-235

0481873

1313122A JMWU
Assuming command of the Sixth Air Force in the Caribbean in November 1942, a year later General Harmon was appointed deputy commander for air of the South Pacific area. He assumed command of the 13th Air Force in that area in January 1944, and that June he was appointed commander of the Army Air Force Personnel Distribution Command. In January 1945 he became Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel at Air Corps Headquarters, and that August he was reassigned as Commander of the AAF Personnel Distribution Command. He resumed command of the Sixth Air Force in February 1946 (later redesignated the Caribbean Air Command).

Designated Senior Air Force Member of the U.S. Delegation, Military and Naval Staff Committee of the United Nations, New York City, in October 1947, the following May General Harmon assumed additional duty as U.S. Delegate to the Inter-American Defense Board, and in December 1949 he assumed additional duty as Special Assistant for Air Academy Matters at Air Force Headquarters, Washington, D. C. He retired from active duty February 27, 1953, and was recalled to active duty the following day with the same duties. He reverted to retired status June 30, 1953.

Recalled to active duty as a Lieutenant General on November 8, 1953, at the request of the President of the United States, General Harmon was Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff for Air Academy Matters. On August 14, 1954, he became the first Superintendent of the United States Air Force Academy at Denver, Colorado.

His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal; Belgian Croix de Guerre with Palm and Order of Leopold (Commander) with Palm; Peruvian Military Order of Ayacacho (Grand Officer) and Aviation Cross (First Class); Ecuadorian Star of Abdon Calderon (First Class); Bolivian Order of Condor of the Andes; Colombian Order of Boyaca; and Panamanian Ribbon of Balboa. He is rated a command pilot, combat observer and aircraft observer.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to first lieutenant (permanent) July 1, 1916; to captain (permanent) May 15, 1917; to major (temporary) June 17, 1918; to major (permanent) July 13, 1920; to lieutenant colonel (permanent) October 1, 1936; to colonel (temporary) March 1, 1940; to brigadier general (temporary) September 30, 1941; to major general (temporary) February 16, 1942; to major general (permanent) December 12, 1942; to lieutenant general (temporary) February 19, 1948; and on March 10, 1953, he was advanced to the grade of lieutenant general on the Regular Air Force Retired List.

E N D

Up to date as of November 1955.